

Mass Extinction

http://media.pearsoncmg.com/bc/bc_campbell_essentials_3/discvids/html/index.htm?info_text=cc5_mass_extinctions

1. Most scientists support the hypothesis that the Cretaceous mass extinction was caused by _____.
 - a) the expansion of the continental glaciers
 - b) the impact of a large meteor
 - c) a rising sea level
 - d) a disease

2. Why were the scientists in the video studying fossil leaves?
 - a) Fossil plants are good indicators of animal-rich fossil beds.
 - b) Fossil leaves are what the dinosaurs ate.
 - c) Plant anatomy is a good indicator of the climate.
 - d) The surface area of the leaf correlates with competition.

3. What evidence do scientists use to support the meteorite impact hypothesis?
 - a) Sea level rose at the same time.
 - b) Numerous meteorite impacts have been correlated to changes in the environment.
 - c) A global layer of iridium has been dated to about the same time as the mass extinction
 - d) Cold-tolerant dinosaurs did not go extinct at a date correlated with the impact.

4. Why do scientists think that the iridium layer is evidence of meteorite impact?
 - a) Iridium is rare on earth and common in meteorites.
 - b) The iridium layer was released into sediments by decaying dinosaur bodies
 - c) The plants living then were killed by iridium poisoning.
 - d) Iridium quickly evaporates from volcanic lava

5. Scientists believe that a meteorite struck _____, leading to the extinction of dinosaurs.
 - a) Delaware
 - b) Pacific Ocean
 - c) northern Alaska
 - d) Montana
 - e) Yucatan, Mexico

6. How long ago did the dinosaurs go extinct?
 - a) 12 million years
 - b) 650,000 years
 - c) 65 million years
 - d) 300 million years